

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00260 250803Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 CEA-01 EA-10  
FRB-03 NEA-10 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00  
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01  
/122 W

-----130032 252131Z /62

R 250705Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2308  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0260

USOECD

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EINV, ELAB, FI, OECD, SF  
SUBJECT: US PROPOSAL FOR COMMON CODE FOR FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH  
AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 4226, (B) 77 HELSINKI 1949, (C) COPENHAGEN 229,

1. COMMENTS TO ECONOMIC COUNSELOR BY PERTTI KARKKAINEN,  
MIDDLE-LEVEL MFA ECONOMIC OFFICIAL, INDICATE NO INTEREST  
HERE AT PRESENT IN WORKING OUT A COMMON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR  
FOREIGN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA. KARKKAINEN SAID FINLAND  
WOULD SUPPORT A CODE IF IT WERE GLOBALLY ADHERED TO, MANDATORY  
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RATHER THAN VOLUNTARY, AND EFFECTIVE RATHER  
THAN HORTATORY. LIKE FOREIGN MINISTER  
VAYRYNEN DURING A DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, HE STRESSED  
THAT FINLAND WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE IN THE OECD  
ON A MATTER SO LADEN WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.  
KARKKAINEN SAID THAT FOR FINLAND THE UN WOULD BE THE PROPER  
FORUM.

2. KARKKAINEN WILL BE CHAIRMAN OF A MEETING IN HELSINKI ON JANUARY 25 OF A WORKING GROUP OF OFFICIALS OF NORDIC COUNTRIES THAT THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING HERE LAST SEPTEMBER SET UP TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A JOINT ACTION PROGRAM FOR WIDENED ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (REF B). FINNS HAVE DRAFTED A PAPER THAT THE WORKING GROUP WILL CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL BY THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN OSLO MARCH 9-10. KARKKAINEN SAID THAT DESPITE ITS TITLE, QUOTE ACTION PROGRAM AGAINST APARTHEID UNQUOTE, THE MFA'S DRAFT WOULD NOT FOR THE PRESENT PRECLUDE FINNISH FIRMS FROM CONDUCTING PERMIT BUSINESS AS USUAL. THE FINNS HAVE INCLUDED A PARAGRAPH THAT CALLS FOR NORDIC FLEXIBILITY IN VIEW OF THE FLUID SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE ADMITTED THIS MIGHT COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE NORWEGIANS AND PERHAPS OTHERS FAVORING A MORE ACTIVIST APPROACH.

3. KARKKAINEN SAID THERE ARE NO FINNISH INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE FINNISH CENTRAL LABOR CONFEDERATION (SAK) IS NOT PRESSING FOR A TRADE EMBARGO, HE SAID, BECAUSE 2000 TO 8000 JOBS IN FINLAND COULD BE ENDANGERED, PRINCIPALLY IN THE PAPER INDUSTRY, AND IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES WHERE ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE HARD TO FIND UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS.

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4. COMMENT: AT ONE POINT KARKKAINEN OBSERVED THAT A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FOREIGN FIRMS IN SOUTH AFRICA COULD BE CONSTRUED AS AT VARIANCE WITH THE FINNISH PREFERENCE FOR A NORDIC APPROACH CAPABLE OF ADAPTABILITY TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS THOUGHT PROBABLY WAS THAT A CODE MIGHT IMPLY THAT PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS ARE SET ON CONTINUING TO PERMIT FIRMS TO OPERATE IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHEREAS NORDICS (ESPECIALLY FINNS, WITH NO FOREIGN INVESTMENT THERE) MIGHT BE QUITE WILLING TO ENTERTAIN FORCING THEIR FIRMS TO WITHDRAW. IN ANY CASE, THOUGH DANES INTEND TO LOBBY OTHER NORDICS IN FAVOR OF CODE ALONG THE LINES OF EC MEASURES (REF C), THE NORDICS PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO A CODE UNTIL THEY FINISH SORTING THEMSELVES OUT, IF THEN. END COMMENT.

RIDGWAY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUSINESS FIRMS, FOREIGN TRADE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US PROPOSAL FOR COMMON CODE FOR FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** EINV, ELAB, FI, SF, OECD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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